



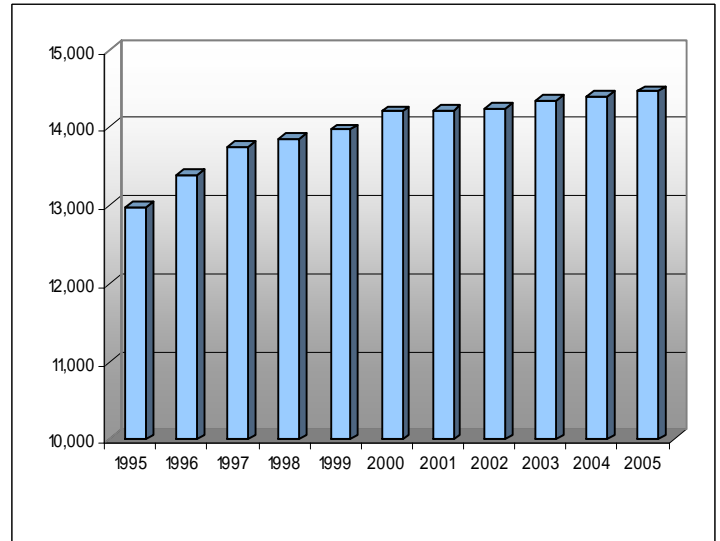
# GOODING COUNTY PROFILE

Prepared by Gregory Rogers, Regional Labor Economist, Idaho Commerce & Labor  
 771 N. College Road, Twin Falls, Idaho 83301 — (208) 735-2500, ext. 3639  
 E-Mail: [grogers@cl.idaho.gov](mailto:grogers@cl.idaho.gov) — Labor Market Information website: [cl.idaho.gov/lmi](http://cl.idaho.gov/lmi)

June 2006

## Population

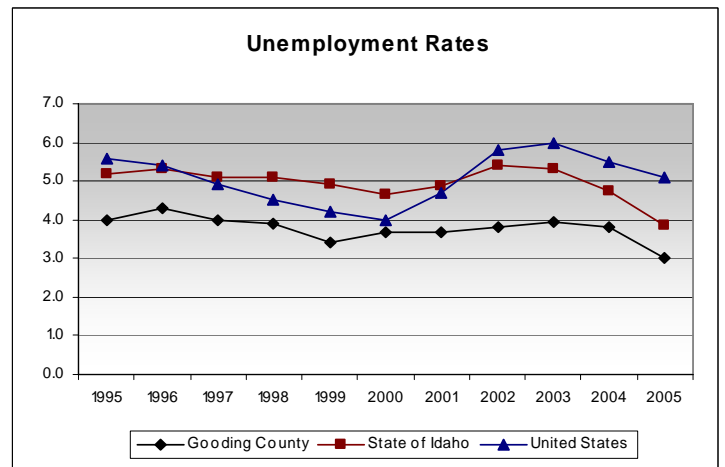
Gooding County has experienced very strong growth in the last ten years. The county has grown from a population of 12,987 in 1995 to 14,461 in 2005—a 11 percent growth. Gooding County has developed into a state leader in the dairy business. The influx of these dairies during the decade of the 1990's has attracted and retained workers, contributing to the population increase. Many former migrant seasonal farm workers are now year-round workers at dairies and the entire economy of Gooding County has changed and stabilized. Population has shown a tendency to level off in the past two years as the county reaches a saturation point in dairy expansion.



## Labor Force & Employment

The improvement in the unemployment rate and *Civilian Labor Force* has been remarkable in Gooding County over the last ten years. The peak year for unemployment was 1996 when the unemployment rate reached 4.3 percent. The unemployment rate fluctuated moderately until it dropped to 3 percent in 2005, This was significantly below the state and national average.

This low unemployment rate can be traced to the dairy and cheese processing industries, which provide year-round employment with no layoffs. Consequently, employment is stable and there are no frequent seasonal layoffs to cause unemployment fluctuations. The rapid growth in dairies has slowed somewhat in the last couple of years as environmental concerns have forced the Gooding County

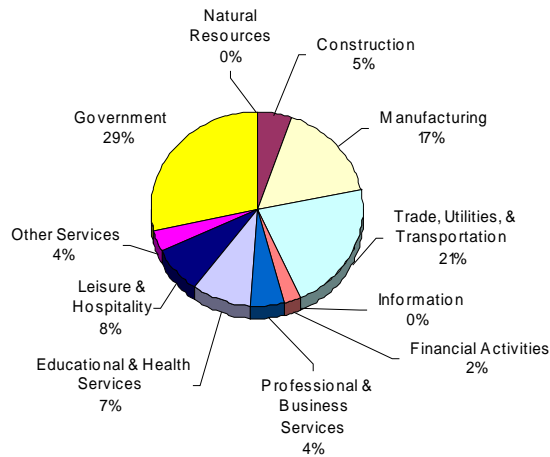


commissioners to enact moratoriums on Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO's) and this has slowed expansion. However, despite the slowdown in job growth, it is expected that Gooding County will continue to have a low, stable, unemployment rate, and the outlook for its economy is optimistic.

Labor Force	May 2005	May 2006
Civilian Labor Force	8,345	9,015
Total Employment	8,057	8,734
Unemployed	288	281
Gooding County % Unemployed	3.5	3.1
State of Idaho % Unemployed	3.9	3.4
U.S. % Unemployed	5.1	4.7

Labor Force	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Civilian Labor Force	6,554	6,724	6,584	6,686	6,621	7,158	7,174	7,230	7,484	7,789	8,336
Unemployment	261	286	266	260	224	263	265	274	296	297	250
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.0	4.3	4.0	3.9	3.4	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.0
Employment	6,293	6,438	6,318	6,426	6,397	6,895	6,909	6,956	7,188	7,492	8,086

## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2004



## Wages & Income

Due to the relatively good pay of dairies and cheese factories, Gooding County has had strong growth in per capita income, which has increased from \$19,007 in 1995 to \$31,070 in 2004—a 63 percent increase. Gooding County ranks third out of Idaho's 44 counties in per capita income. The workforce is more permanent and there are not as many migrant seasonal farm workers as there are in other rural Idaho counties. Gooding County has the second highest per capita income in South Central Idaho after Blaine County.

### Major Employers

Glanbia, Inc.
Gooding County
Gooding School District
Gooding County Hospital
Idaho State School for Deaf and Blind
The Walker Center

### Occupational Wages\*

### Starting Wage

Teachers	\$14.82
Social Workers	\$14.87
Registered Nurses	\$17.13
Substance Abuse Counselors	\$13.71
Waiters and Waitresses	\$5.99
Receptionists	\$8.38
Milkers	\$9.90
General Farm Labor	\$6.34
Cheese Processors	\$9.23
Cashiers	\$6.07
Maintenance Mechanics	\$12.20
Construction Labor	\$11.52

\* Additional Occupational Wage data can be found on the Idaho Commerce & Labor website at [cl.idaho.gov/lmi](http://cl.idaho.gov/lmi).

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 1994, 2003, & 2004	1994		2003		2004	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	4,018	\$16,446	5,655	\$22,783	5,811	\$23,989
Agriculture	923	\$16,073	1,851	\$21,931	1,959	\$23,054
Mining	*	*	0	\$0	0	\$0
Construction	144	\$17,169	216	\$24,814	206	\$25,956
Manufacturing	370	\$21,655	607	\$30,368	654	\$33,511
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	872	\$16,342	827	\$22,988	843	\$23,577
Information	12	\$6,066	0	\$0	0	\$0
Financial Activities	109	\$15,513	91	\$22,004	92	\$23,261
Professional and Business Services	122	\$19,409	199	\$24,677	200	\$26,304
Educational and Health Services	240	\$13,439	338	\$24,440	348	\$23,505
Leisure and Hospitality	290	\$6,582	338	\$7,548	303	\$7,841
Other Services	71	\$26,927	118	\$26,237	121	\$26,232
Government	865	\$17,730	1,071	\$23,008	1,084	\$23,933

Per Capita Income	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Gooding County	\$19,007	\$20,433	\$20,502	\$23,756	\$25,484	\$23,473	\$28,026	\$26,005	\$26,130	\$31,070
State of Idaho	\$18,707	\$19,426	\$20,248	\$20,648	\$21,789	\$22,786	\$24,075	\$25,185	\$25,330	\$26,877
United States	\$22,172	\$23,076	\$24,175	\$25,334	\$26,883	\$27,939	\$29,845	\$30,575	\$30,804	\$31,472

Information provided by U.S. Census Bureau



This county is served by the office listed below:  
Idaho Commerce & Labor  
771 N. College Rd  
Twin Falls, ID 83303-5129 Ph: (208) 736-3000

Partners with  
**IDAHO**  
idahoworks.org

This publication is produced by Idaho Commerce & Labor funded at least in part by federal grants from the United States Department of Labor. Costs associated with this specific publication are available by contacting Idaho Commerce & Labor.

Idaho Commerce & Labor is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Dial 711 for TTY Idaho Relay Service.